

for the horses, provided the roads be not too bad, suppose you let him carry the carriage down for you. I suggest this measure, because I consider them perfectly safe and Ma will feel some apprehensions about them unless you first test their tractableness and you will moreover avoid the risks incident to traveling in the stage, especially at night.

We have been favoured with several visits from our friends since my last letter. When not called from my studies by having to pay them attentions, I have read quite closely. I have finished Sallust. I like his style as a Historian and the regard to veracity which he displays in recording facts and the remarks he makes as a speculator and moralizer upon the characters, and manners of men. The true and striking delineation and comparison of the characters of *Cato* and *Cæsar*, and the proof which they afford of the superiority of unaffected virtue "esse quam videri bonus," over intrigue and the show of virtue without its possession, I especially admire. I am now reading *Virgil*. No one can but be enraptured by his glowing descriptions, of Gods and Goddesses and be fascinated with the simplicity and accuracy with which he delineates the manners and customs of those early times when the true characters of men had not been disguised by artificial restraints, and the manners dictated by nature had not been corrupted by false polish and luxurious refinement. I have not in the mean time neglected to read the History of Greece. One is delighted with the accounts of the valiant and patriotic achievements of the little Grecian States, their love of Liberty and their taste for the fine arts but his Soul sickens over the relations of their intestine wars, their murders and their barbarous and inhuman cruelties. He dislikes to see those who commenced their careers with professions of devotion to the weal of their individual States, and with actions which would lead him to believe that their bosoms glowed with true patriotism Without an eye to their interests and aggrandizement, end them with betraying the liberties of their country and endeavouring to erect upon their ruins their own power. It makes an American too distrust the permanency of the institutions under which he lives and the purity of those who are his rulers, when he considers the causes that lead to the downfall of the Grecian Republics and knows that the germ of Democracy and Party-spirit is already developing itself in this country. According to my view (short and weak as it is) our government resembles in more than one point the Athenian Republick, the same loose is given in each to the spirit of Democracy with hardly any ballancing power, and what can not, what will not that spirit, when excited and spurred on by ambitious designing Demagogues, attempt and execute? The Athenians destroyed the Court of Areopagus—the only ballance in their Constitution to Democracy. And what was the consequence? Its destruction gave rise to that spirit of plunder and rapine, of extortion and tyranny which brought on the Peloponesian War. It caused in Athens all the evils incident to a government, the management of which is entrusted entirely to the People without dis-